Proposals to Attract Buddhist Tourists from Abroad

1552. SHRI RAHAS BIHARI BARIK: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have a proposal to promote tourism in places of Buddhist interest;

(b) if so, the Central and State schemes drawn up to develop Lautgiri Puspagiri and other places of tourist interest to attract Buddhist tourists from abroad; and

(c) the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM (SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) The Government of India has signed a soft term loan agreement with the Overseas Economic Cooperation Fund (OECF) of Japan to the tune of 9.244 billion Japanese Yen for comprehensive and integrated infrastructural development of Buddhist travel circuits directly associated with the life and time of Lord Buddha in the States of UP and Bihar. Another loan agreement of 3745 million Japanese Yen was signed for conservation and tourism development for Ajanta and Ellora. However, Development of infrastructure in places of tourist interest is primarily the responsibility of the State Government. The Central Department of Tourism sanctions financial assistance to the State Governments on the basis of proposals received from them, subject to the availability of funds.

The Government has undertaken extensive publicity campaigns to promote Buddhist pilgrimage from South East Asian countries and also brought out attractive folders, brochures, audio-visuals, etc. to attract more Buddhist tourists. These brochures have mentioned Udaigiri, Ratnagiri and Lalitgiri as places of Buddhist influences.

Small Investors in Company Deposits

1553. DR. BAPU KALDATE: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the measures taken to safeguard the interest of small investors in company deposits upto Rs. 5000 for repayment;

(b) whether any insurance scheme on the lines of the insurance for bank deposits could be devised with G.I.C.;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (DR. DEBIPROSAD PAL): (a) Section 58-A of the Companies Act, 1956 already provides for mandatory imprisonment, which may extend upto five years in the event of contravention of the relevant provisions of that Section or the Rules framed thereunder. The Companies Bill, 1993, introduced in the Rajya Sabha on 14.5.1993 provides that a company which has failed to repay any deposit or interest due thereon shall be prohibited from raising further deposits and, also, from making intercorporate loans or investments, until the default is made good. It also provides for compulsory credit rating for Companies intending to raise deposits through advertisement.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) Does not arise.

(d) Adequate safeguards already exist in prevailing Companies Act, 1956.

अक्षम विद्युत इकाइयों को बंद किया जाना

1554. श्री अनन्तराव देवशंकर दवे: क्या विद्युत मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि:

(क) क्या सरकार का अक्षम विद्युत इकाइयों को बंद करने का कोई प्रस्ताव है;

(ख) यदि हां, तो तत्संबंधी ब्यौरा क्या है;

(ग) क्या इस प्रस्ताव को राज्य विद्युत बोर्डों के पास उनके विचार जानने हेतु भेजा गया है;

(घ) यदि हां, तो तत्संबंधी ब्यौरा क्या है; और

(ङ) इस संबंध में क्या अंतिम निर्णय लिया गया है?

विद्युत मंत्रालय में राज्य मंत्री (श्रीमती उर्मिलाबेन चिमनभाई पटेल): (क) से (ङ) केन्द्रीय सरकार के पास अव्यवहार्य विद्युत यूनिटों को बंद करने का कोई प्रस्ताव नहीं है।